11 August, 2006 and its follow up. The Government is keeping all options open and will take further steps depending on its assessment of the situation.

Multiple visa for longer period

2907. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not giving multiple visa and that too for longer period to the people belonging to Afghanistan living in Kabul or U.K. or other countries;

(b) the policy to give return multiple visa to Hindu and Sikh outstees of Afghanistan now living in India;

(c) whether Government are aware that due to exodus many families were separated, some are living in India, U.K. or other countries; and

(d) whether there is any humanitarian scheme of his Ministry for unfortunate people who have suffered on account of religious bias?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Indian Missions abroad grant appropriate visas to Afghan nationals on request after usual checks.

(b) Afghan nationals of Hindu and Sikh community staying in India, who are registered with foreigners Regional Registration Offices or foreigners Registration Offices are granted re-entry facility once a year for a maximum period of three months for (i) disposal of their property in Afghanistan or (ii) visiting a country other than Afghanistan and Pakistan, if the request, if found, justified.

(c) and (d) Afghan nationals displaced due to disturbances in their country have been allowed to stay in India as refugees on the basis of certificates issued by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) till they are rehabilitated in the third country by UNHCR.

Nuclear expansion programme by Pakistan

2908. DR. M. A. M. RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has embarked upon further nuclear expansion programme;